



# California Department of Veterans Affairs

## NEWS FOR VETERANS

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### EDWARD M. FELDMAN, M.D. RESIGNS FROM CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD

California Veterans Board member Edward M. Feldman, M.D. resigned today from the California Veterans Board, effective immediately, due to health concerns. Dr. Feldman joined the California Veterans Board in September 2001. A highly decorated Vietnam War veteran, Dr. Feldman, a Naval Officer with the Marine Infantry, was a Silver Star Medal, Bronze Star Medal with Combat V, and Cross of Gallantry (RVN) recipient, as well as having received a Presidential Citation, and was named Intern of the Year 1966-67.

Dr. Feldman, a physician in Thousand Oaks, was a founding member of the Hillcrest Home in Thousand Oaks, which serves as a retirement and semi-ambulatory care facility. He earned a bachelor of science degree from Columbia University and a doctorate of osteopathic medicine degree from the University of Health Sciences, Kansas City.

During his term, he served as Vice Chairman of the Board and Chairman of the Committee on Policy and Procedures where he achieved open communication with state legislators regarding future plans for the California Veterans Homes.

"I am saddened that Dr. Feldman had to resign from the California Veterans Board, but understand that his health must be his priority now," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Thomas Johnson. "I was especially looking forward to working with Dr. Feldman on many of the veterans issues which would benefit from the attention of a physician with his talents. On behalf of the employees here at the California Department of Veterans Affairs and all California veterans, I wish Dr. Feldman a speedy recovery and offer our sincere thanks for his dedication."

**The following excerpt was taken from the Khe Sanh Veterans Association Inc. website.**

<http://www.geocities.com/ksvredclay/issue-52-memoirs.htm>

*"On 4 September 1968, at approximately 1700 hours, Lt. Edward M. Feldman, USNR, was preparing the triage at the main medical facility at Quang Tri for receiving casualties. An Army helicopter crewman came running in asking for a doctor to follow him to his helicopter. Lt. Feldman accompanied the airman and, upon reaching the helicopter, was motioned aboard. Lt. Feldman's first impression was that the aircrew had a wounded man aboard and did not know how to move him. However, when he discovered there were no wounded aboard, Lt. Feldman assumed that the aircrew wanted to lift him to a casualty a short distance away and, therefore, volunteered to go with them."*

*After flying at very low altitude for some fifteen to twenty minutes, buffeted by typhoon-strength winds, the pilot settled the helicopter into a hover. The helicopter immediately began taking fire from its left side and the pilot abruptly landed atop a knoll carpeted by swampy elephant grass. There below him, Lt. Feldman could see several armored personnel carriers (APCs) from A Company, 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry (Mechanized) under violent attack by a battalion-size NVA force.*

*Lt. Feldman jumped out of the helicopter and was met by a man who briefed him on the situation. Lt. Feldman was told that he was three kilometers south of the Demilitarized Zone near Charlie 2 Cam Lo combat base. At that moment, enemy automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades set on fire one of the APCs spaced at intervals along the column. When this happened, the weight of enemy fire seemed to shift toward this vehicle. Heedless of the enemy small arms fire being directed toward A Company, Lt. Feldman immediately moved to the head of the column of APCs. Finding no wounded, Lt. Feldman stopped long enough to put on a discarded flak vest and helmet and picked up an M-16, which had also been abandoned. Like everything, it was caked with sticky, red clay. After assuring himself that the weapon was functioning properly, Lt. Feldman, exposing himself to moderate but steady enemy fire, began making his way from track to track.*

*Behind each of the APCs were clutches of soldiers, huddled close together returning fire. Lt. Feldman stopped at each vehicle, assisting the wounded and encouraging the men. After he had reached the last APC, Lt. Feldman, advancing as before, retraced his steps back up the column of dispersed APCs stopping again to assist the wounded. As he moved, he was constantly aware of the enemy automatic fire and rocket-propelled grenades coming from a line of small trees and brush off to the right flank, and that some of it was being directed at him. Lt. Feldman stopped to return fire himself many times.*

*At approximately 1852 hours, Lt. Feldman took charge of A Company 1/61 and personally began directing the men to move with their wounded to a new, more defensible position atop a hill just to the south from which the men could better direct their fire upon the enemy, and from which point medevacs could effectively evacuate the wounded. As the APCs began climbing the hill, they received what Lt. Feldman thought was heavy mortar fire, as well as RPG and automatic weapons fire. Once atop the hill, Lt. Feldman guided the men in forming a perimeter until all the APCs were in position.*

*Sometime after getting into position, a lieutenant from A Company 1/61 informed Lt. Feldman that only a small amount of concertina wire and about thirty-two claymore mines were available for night defenses. Feldman was further informed because of the poor weather, they would not be getting any close air or artillery support, and it was unlikely that there would be any evacuation of casualties. Undaunted, Lt. Feldman directed the men in establishing a defensive perimeter. With enemy activity in the area slackening somewhat with the fall of darkness, Lt. Feldman busied himself reevaluating the existing casualties and checking to make sure that any new casualties received medical attention.*

*Until Lt. Feldman arrived, A Company 1/61 had been taking care of its wounded as best it could. Once Lt. Feldman had assembled the company atop the hill, he ordered all non-ambulatory men placed in a tight perimeter within the main defensive position where they would be protected from direct fire. This allowed him and one or two A Company men to provide better medical treatment. A dozen or more such wounded were administered to by Lt. Feldman. Many of these wounded men had gone into shock due to their loss of blood. Lt. Feldman separated those casualties that could be saved from those for which there was no hope. Lt. Feldman gave the mortally wounded morphine and made them as comfortable as possible.*

*At 1930 hours, C Company 1/61 arrived to reinforce A Company. However, Lt. Feldman retained command over the evacuation of the wounded. Lt. Feldman was not formally relieved of his responsibility for A Company's defenses until the next morning. Once the wounded were stabilized, Lt. Feldman placed a call for a CH-47 Chinook for the evacuation of the wounded. Lt. Feldman knew A Company's position on the hill was still being subjected to enemy fire. The wounded would stand a better chance if all were evacuated at one time, thus necessitating the Chinook. Lt. Feldman directed the men to establish a landing zone for the medevac. All the while, A Company 1/61 was still taking moderate small arms and mortar fires.*

*At 2245 hours, a US Army Chinook helicopter landed on the hill. While Lt. Feldman ordered all the wounded of A Company 1/61 to be placed on board, enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire intensified. The dead were also evacuated, their bodies placed on the floor of the Chinook. Lt. Feldman refused evacuation himself, choosing instead to stay with the men who had been placed in his care. He remained with A Company 1/61 until 6 September 1968 at which time he was flown to C2.*

*Lt. Feldman demonstrated aggressiveness in taking command and reorganizing the separated elements of A Company 1/61, placed the company in a strong position on high ground, one from which it would have a reasonable chance of withstanding a determined enemy assault if one had come. Moreover, Lt. Feldman's presence had a profound impact on the survival of A Company's wounded."*

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## OTHER NEWS

### COAST GUARD AIR STATION SACRAMENTO OPEN HOUSE

The Coast Guard Air Station Sacramento will hold an Open House on Saturday, May 15, 2004 to celebrate 26 years of operation at McClellan, CA. This event will showcase Coast Guard Aviation and local emergency and rescue organizations.

For more information contact CDR Kirk Bartnick at 916-643-7672 or [kbartnick@d11.uscg.mil](mailto:kbartnick@d11.uscg.mil).

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### MEMORIAL DAY 2004 EVENTS

Please report your organization's Memorial Day 2004 Events to the California Department of Veterans Affairs for inclusion in a Memorial Day 2004 Event Calendar. Email the information for your event to [newsforveterans@cdva.ca.gov](mailto:newsforveterans@cdva.ca.gov). Thank You

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